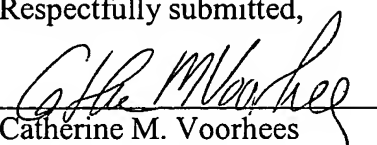


**REMARKS**

The Preliminary Amendment eliminates multiple claim dependency and deletes the reference numbers in the claims. Accordingly claims 1-27 are pending in the application. An Action on the merits is requested at the earliest opportunity.

Dated: January 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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